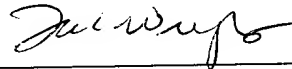


Preliminary Amendment
Rule 53(b) Divisional Application of
U.S. Appln. No. 09/630,716

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 13, 2001

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The following sentence is inserted before the first line:

This is a divisional of Application No. 09/630,716 filed August 2, 2000, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 5-10 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1 (amended). An ink wastage absorber for pigment or dye ink comprising a flexible polyurethane foam having an air-permeability of 1.0 cc/cm²/sec or more.

14 (amended). A process of producing an ink wastage absorber according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein said surface active agent is a denaturated sodium succinate.